(d) It is proposed to supply seed of improved varieties, tobacco seedlings and provide training to farmers by CTRI during 2006-07.

(e) Sufficient emphasis is being given for the training of farmers by the CTRI, within the available resources.

Claim of Bonus by Workers of Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore

3642. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Tribunal at Chennai had passed an award on the dispute relating to claim of bonus by the workers of the Sugarcane Breeding Institute at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same award has covered the demand for regularization in service of the workforce of the same institute; and

(c) if so, the action initiated by Government to implement the said award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A Writ Petition No. 32214 has been filed before Hon'ble High Court Chennai & Hon'ble court has granted stay in the matter.

Increasing Fertilizer Consumption

3643. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country is less than 90 Kg.;

(b) the reasons for such low rate of fertilizer consumption;

(c) the steps taken to increase fertilizer application to increase productivity; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote new farming practices to increase yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country during the year 2004-05 was 96.59 Kg (based on 2001-02 Gross Cropped area data).

(b) The low consumption of fertilizers in the country is primarily due to less area under irrigation, which is nearly two-third of the net cultivable area of the country and the consumption is only about 25 kg. per hectare against the National average of 96.59 kg per hectare.

(c) For increasing productivity, Government is advocating Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which envisage soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers like farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermi compost and bio-fertilizers.

(d) the farming practices promoted include *inter alia* zero tillage, raised bed planting, surface seeding, split application of fertilizers, integrated water and nutrient management including fertigation and integrated pest management.

Senior Official on Deep-Sea Tuna Boats

3644. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared proposals to post one senior official on every deep-sea tuna boat operating in our waters in the EEZ;

(b) the purpose of this new rule being considered by Government;

(c) whether Government want to give training and experience to senior officials involved in policy formulation;

(d) the details of such hands-on-training being proposed;

(e) the minimum rank of officials who will go on board for such mandatory training on tuna boats to experience for themselves with the realities of fishing and how to make policy practical; and

(f) the schedule for such activity in the next two months?